

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic POPLAR KNOWLE FARM TENANT HOUSE #1

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 835 Cumberstone Road not for publication

city, town Harwood X vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Anne Arundel

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> </u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture	<u> </u> museum
<u> X </u> building(s)	<u> X </u> private	<u> X </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial	<u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational	<u> </u> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment	<u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> X </u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government	<u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial	<u> </u> transportation
	<u> X </u> not applicable	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military	<u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name contact Robert Hammond, architect, Annapolis, Md. for name of new owners.
(267-6041)

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. liber

street & number folio

city, town state

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Sites Inventory

date federal X state X county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state MD

7. Description

Survey No. AA-908

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Poplar Knowle Farm Tenant House #1, built c. 1906, is a modest 2-story, 3-bay, one-room-deep frame dwelling with a side-gabled roof. The wall structure is transitional: partly post-and-beam and partly balloon style. It rests on ten brick piers spaced evenly under the perimeter.

Commercially available building materials were used in the construction, specifically: vertical board-and-batten exterior siding (which was generally less expensive than horizontal weatherboarding), raised-seam tin roofing, and interior vertical beaded paneling typically found in turn-of-the-century housing.

There is a narrow brick chimney in the center of the building with flue openings in each west-end room, upstairs and down. There are two rooms downstairs, and two rooms and a landing hall upstairs. An enclosed stairway hugs the inside ~~East~~ corner of the building, with a built-in closet below the stair and another above.

There is no plumbing in the house. A two-seat outhouse is located at the west side of the yard. There is also a small outbuilding behind the house, to the south. Its gray board-and-batten siding and tin roof match those of the house.

Dimensions: See attached measured drawing of floor plan.

8. Significance

Survey No. AA-908

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		Black History

Specific dates Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

In 1877 Henry Murray bought Tulip Hill Farm with its magnificent Georgian manor house dating from 1752. In 1906 Henry's widow sold the house and 54 acres, saving 150 acres of land for her son Robert. Robert immediately began improving his property which he named Poplar Knowle. He built a large frame residence (AA-237), also five barns and at least three tenant houses (one has disappeared since 1970 when the most recent USGS map of the Deale Quadrangle was prepared). Poplar Knowle Farm Tenant House #1 was one of these three built by Robert Murray circa 1906. It is the only board-and-batten style building in the Galesville-Cumberstone Black History Survey Area.

Robert Murray died before 1934 and his wife died in the 1950's. The main Poplar Knowle residence stood empty for about 20 years until 1980 when the Smithsonian Institution purchased part of the estate of Robert's son Henry for its Rhode River Environmental Research Center. Included in the acquisition were Robert's 1906 residence and Poplar Knowle Tenant House #1. (Tenant House #2, on a separate 15-acre parcel south of Tulip Hill, was purchased by Eric Steinlein.)

The last black family to occupy Poplar Knowle Farm Tenant House #1, circa 1977, was that of Arthur "Fatback" Tasker and his wife Viola, and sons "Junebug", Henry, and Charles. The house was empty from 1977 until 1986.

In 1986 the Smithsonian sold 9.2 acres of Poplar Knowle Farm land, including Tenant House #1, for residential development. A new residence is being constructed on the property. According to their architect Robert Hammond, the owners plan to restore the exterior of Tenant House #1 and adapt the interior as a private dance studio.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. AA-908

Interviewee: Sally Whall, Cumberstone Road, Harwood, Md. (867-3139)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 9.2Quadrangle name DealeQuadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan R. Wetherill, Volunteer

organization Anne Arundel Co. Committee/MHT date March 1986

street & number P.O. Box 1573 telephone

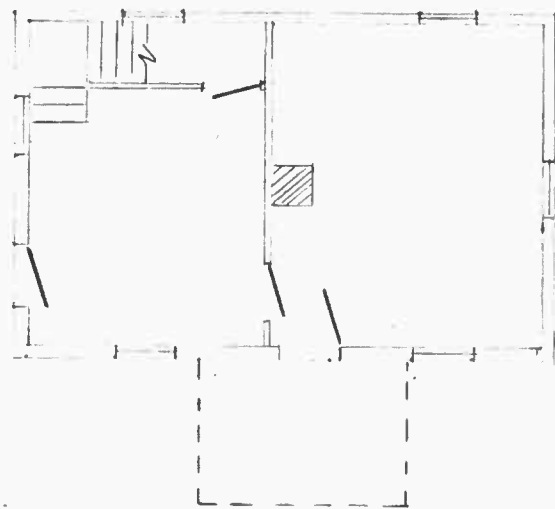
city or town Annapolis state MD 21404

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

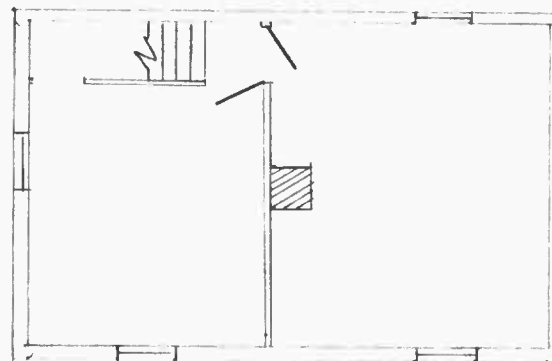
return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

First floor ceiling height : 7' 3"
 Second floor ceiling height : 7' 0"
 Door heights : 6' 5"
 Hardwood Floorboards : 3 1/4" w.
 Windows 6/6 . Panes 7 1/2" x 9 1/2".



FEET 0-6
 1
 2 4

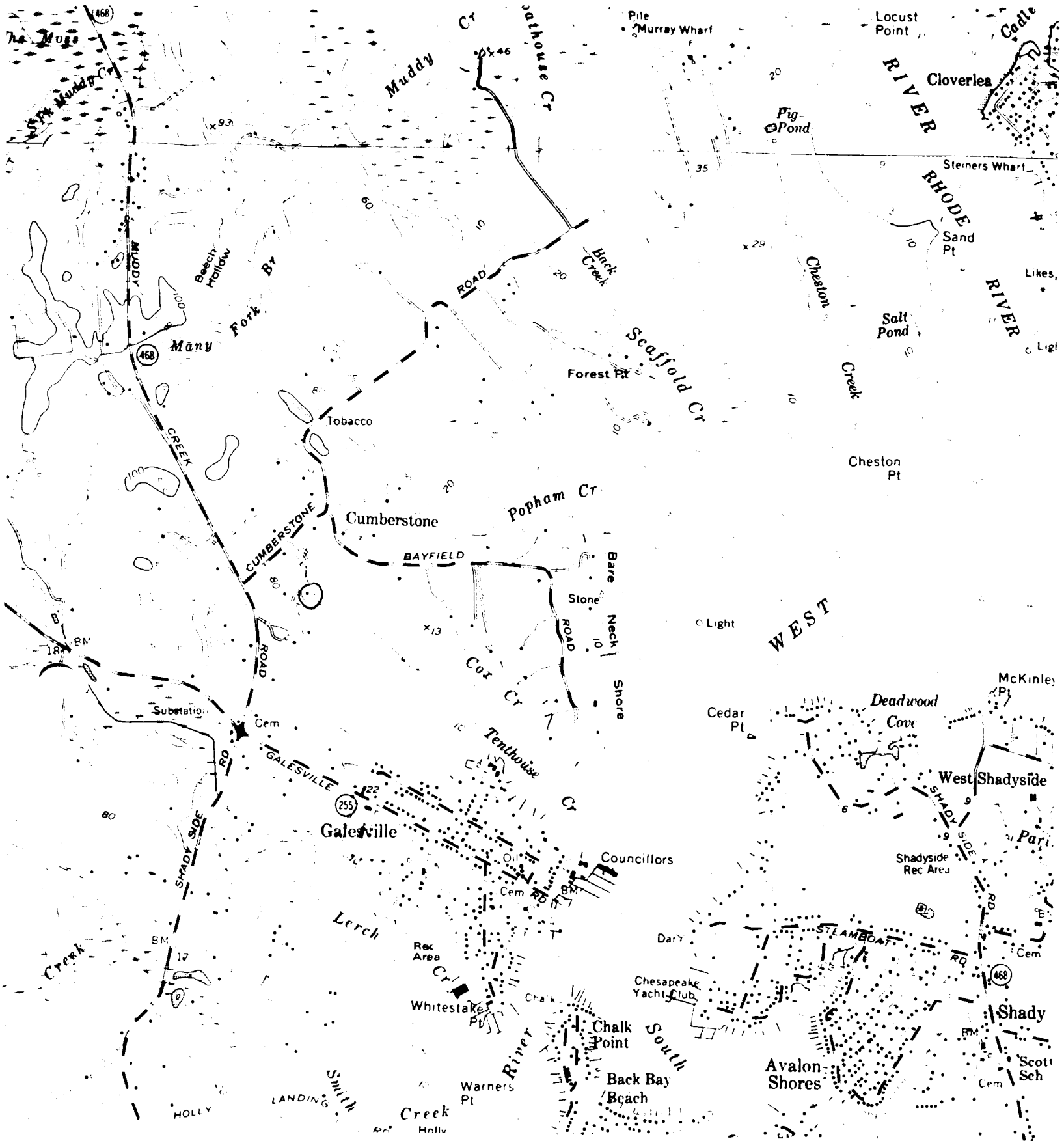
1/8" = 1' 0"
 SCALE



EXTERIOR WALL LENGTH TO SCALE
 DIVISIONS AND DETAILS NOT TO SCALE

POPLAR KNOWLE TENANT HOUSE #1
 WEST RIVER, MARYLAND

FEBRUARY 22, 1985



Deale, MD.
 USGS 7.5 minute Series
 Scale 1: 24,000
 1957; photo revised 1970

AA-908
 Poplar Knowle Farm Tenant Hse # 1
 835 Cumberstone Rd.
 Harwood



2/85

AA-908

POPLAR KNOWLE FARM TENANT HSE. # 1

Anne Arundel Co, Md.

S. Wetherill

~~ROLL # 7~~

~~FRAME 27~~

facade, NW elevation



AA-908

Poplar Knowle Farm Tenant House # 1

Anne Arundel Co. Md

S. Wetherill, 2/85

rear, East corner



AA-908

Poplar Knowle Farm Tenant Hse. # 1

A-A-Co., Md.

S. Wetherill 2/85

West Corner



AA - 908

Poplar Knave Farm Tenant
House # 1

A.A. Co, Ind.

S. Wetherill, 2/85

Side, NE elevation



AA-908

POPLAR KNOWLE FARM TENANT HOUSE #1

Anne Arundel Co, MD

S. Wetherill 3/85

rear, S. corner